Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Randall Palmer on 11/12/2009.

1. (Currently Amended) A user interface ~~for depiction by~~ <u>displayed on</u> a display of a computing system, the user interface for enhancing a computing session by providing seamless continuity when a user logs onto the computing system, the user interface comprising:

a logon page which is displayed to the user prior to logging onto the computing system, the logon page including:

one or more selectable logon controls; and

one or more user-identifiable indicators corresponding to the user, wherein each displayed user-identifiable indicator is associated with its corresponding selectable logon control displayed on the logon page; and a user interface start page displayed in response to user selection of the selectable logon control via the logon page, the user interface start page displayed to the user after a first transition from the logon page but prior to a second transition to a desktop page, wherein the user interface start page and the desktop page each include the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the user,

<u>wherein the user-identifiable indicator is a scalable image shown to continually evolve in</u>

<u>size during the first and second transitions, wherein the user identifiable indicator</u>

<u>appears in a scale distinct from the scale in which it appears on the logon page,</u>

wherein the user-identifiable indicator is displayed uninterrupted throughout the first

transition and throughout the second transition, and wherein the user interface start

page further includes;

user-selectable controls from one or more regions of the desktop page which is

displayed after the second transition, each of the user selectable controls configured to

initiate a display of information associated with the user when selected;

a start control that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple application programs

start together at approximately a same time after the transition to the desktop page and

after a single user input; and

a user-configurable on-line selectable control on the user interface start page

which permits the user to designate an on-line status before transitioning to the desktop

page, wherein the user is permitted via the user-configurable on-line selectable control

to select a status wherein at least one other user is not notified that the user has

changed status from off-line to on-line.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for providing seamless continuity when a user logs

onto a computing system, the method comprising: displaying, on a display device, a

logon page to the user, the logon page including a user-identifiable indicator

corresponding to the user, wherein the user-identifiable indicator is associated with a

selectable logon control displayed on the logon page, wherein the selectable logon

control that is displayed on the logon page is selectable via a user input to the

computing system; displaying a user interface start page in response to user selection

of the selectable logon control via the logon page, the user interface start page

displayed to the user after a first transition from the logon page but prior to a second

transition to a desktop page, wherein the user interface start page and the desktop page

each include the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the user, wherein the user-

identifiable indicator is a scalable image shown to continually evolve in size during the

first and second transitions, wherein the user identifiable indicator appears in a scale

distinct from the scale in which it appears on the logon page, and wherein the user-

identifiable indicator is displayed uninterrupted throughout the first transition and

throughout the second transition; and displaying user-selectable controls on the user

interface start page that are included in one or more regions of the desktop page which

is displayed after the second transition, each of the user selectable controls configured

to initiate a display of information associated with the user when selected; and wherein

the user interface start page further comprises a start control that is user-selectable to

initiate that multiple application programs start together at approximately a same time

after the transition to the desktop page and after a single user input, and wherein the

user interface start page is further configured to display a user-configurable on-line

selectable control on the user interface start page which permits the user to designate

an on-line status before transitioning to the desktop page, wherein the user is permitted

via the user-configurable on-line selectable control to select a status wherein at least

one other user is not notified that the user has changed status from off-line to on-line.

48. (Currently Amended) One or more computer readable <u>storage</u> media comprising

computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to

perform the method of claim 25.

49. (Currently Amended) One or more computer readable <u>storage</u> media comprising

computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to:

display a logon page to the user, the logon page including a user-identifiable indicator

corresponding to the user, wherein the user-identifiable indicator is associated with a

selectable logon control displayed on the logon page, ~~wherein the selectable logon~~

~~control that is displayed on the logon page is selectable via a user input to the~~

~~computing system with a mouse click input, and wherein the user-identifiable indicator is~~

~~a scalable image displayed uninterrupted throughout the transition as a continually~~

~~evolving display of the user-identifiable indicator~~; and display a user interface start page

in response to user selection of the selectable logon control via the logon page, the user

interface start page displayed to the user after a first transition from the logon page but

prior to a second transition to a desktop page, wherein the user interface start page and

the desktop page each include the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the user,

<u>wherein the user-identifiable indicator is a scalable image shown to continually evolve in</u>

<u>size during the first and second transitions</u>, wherein the user identifiable indicator

appears in a scale distinct from the scale in which it appears on the logon page, and wherein the user-identifiable indicator is displayed uninterrupted throughout the first transition and throughout the second transition; display user-selectable controls on the user interface start page that are included in one or more regions of the desktop page which is displayed after the second transition, each of the user selectable controls configured to initiate a display of information associated with the user when selected; and wherein the user interface start page further comprises a start control that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple application programs start together at approximately a same time after the transition to the desktop page and after a single user input; and display a user-configurable on-line selectable control on the user interface start page which permits the user to designate an on-line status before transitioning to the desktop page, wherein the user is permitted via the user-configurable on-line selectable control to select a status wherein at least one other user is not notified that the user has changed status from off-line to on-line.

Reasons for Allowance

Amendment to include the limitations by the applicant along with further amendments are recited in Examiner's Amendment into Independent claims 1, 25 and 49, specify a user interface displayed on a display, a method and a computer-readable storage media, which now requires:

> a.   *wherein the user interface start page and the desktop page each include the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the user,*

> b.   *wherein the user-identifiable indicator is a scalable image shown to continually evolve in size during the first and second transitions*

> c.   *a user-configurable on-line selectable control on the user interface start page which permits the user to designate an on-line status before transitioning to the desktop page, wherein the user is permitted via the user-configurable on-line selectable control to select a status wherein at least one other user is not notified that the user has changed status from off-line to on-line.*

The amendment of independent claims 1 (user interface displayed on a display), 25 (method) and 49 (computer-readable storage media) to include the above recited limitations, along with the features already present in the claims, overcomes the cited references of <u>Hilbert</u>, <u>Enin</u>, <u>Rathbone</u>, <u>Ricart</u>, and <u>Grebler</u> and is not found in the art. Accordingly, each of the dependent claims is allowable by virtue of their dependency upon their respective independent claims 1, 25 and 49.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Belousov whose telephone number is (571) 270-1695. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (alternate Fri off) EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dennis Chow can be reached on (571) 272-7767. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steven P Sax/
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AB
11/20/2009